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PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON THE
MENTAL CAPACITY
OF
JAPANESE CHILDREN
IN
CALIFORNIA



Introductory Note.

The following is the first preliminary report by Prof. M. L. Darsie, Assistant Director of Stanford University Research regarding Intelligence Tests of Japanese children. Prof. Lewis M. Terman is the Director of this work.

The object of the tests is to make a thorough scientific investigation of the mental, moral and physical characteristics of the Japanese children in California, along the following lines:

1. Intellectual ability, as shown by the standard mental test.
2. Moral characteristics, as shown by school conduct and character tests.
3. The extent to which mental deficiency and degeneracy are prevalent among them.
4. Social characteristics and the extent to which these are being influenced by American Ideals.
5. School success of the Japanese children and attitude of the Japanese towards education.

The main part of the research is a study of American-born Japanese school children, from ten to fifteen years of age, who have attended an American school at least four years. This study is intended to give a true picture of the important traits of American-born Japanese who will reach the age of twenty-one during the years 1928-1933, and will then enjoy political rights as American citizens.

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE MENTAL CAPACITY OF THE JAPANESE CHILDREN IN CALIFORNIA

To The Japanese Association of America:

I herewith submit a short statement of the most important results of the survey of Japanese children in the cities and towns of Northern and Central California. The final and complete report will be ready by January 1, 1923. The facts presented have been compiled with extreme care, and the statistical treatment has been carefully checked. It is believed that the results are entirely trustworthy.

1. The Group Tested.

a. Numbers.

Binet tests were given to 568 children, from 10 to 15 years of age. The distribution by ages follows:

10 years.....	139	13 years.....	72
11 "	144	14 "	57
12 "	124	15 "	32

Complete tests were given to 440 of these children.

b. Localities studied.

Alameda.....	54	Children
Fresno.....	68	"
Oakland.....	25	" (Binet only)
Sacramento.....	96	"
San Francisco.....	115	"
Santa Clara County..	91	"
Stockton.....	51	"
Florin.....	52	" (Partial tests)
Los Angeles.....	58	"

c. Distribution according to occupation of fathers.

1. Professional men, and managers of large businesses..... 8.4%
2. Managers of small stores, hotels, etc..26.1%
3. Skilled laborers, tailors, carpenters, mechanics, etc..... 8.4%
4. Semi-skilled laborers, waiters, janitors, barbers, farm tenants, etc..40.6%
5. Unskilled laborers.....16.3%

d. Distribution by sexes.

Boys.....	292
Girls.....	276

e. Distribution by school grades.

Age	Average grade
10.....	Low 4th
11.....	Low 5th
12.....	Low 6th
13.....	Low 7th
14.....	High 7th
15.....	Low 8th

(Unfortunately we were not able to get complete data on high school pupils, hence the grades assigned to 14 and 15 year olds are too low.)

2. General Results of Tests.

a. Binet tests of general intelligence.

1. Average I. Q. of whole group.....90.2
Boys.....90.5
Girls.....89.4
2. Distribution of I. Q. according to locality.
 - a. Large cities, San Francisco, Oakland,
Los Angeles99.2
 - b. Smaller cities, Fresno, Sacramento,
Stockton.....87.6
 - c. Small towns and rural schools, Florin
and Santa Clara County.....86.3

3. Distribution of I. Q. according to occupation of
of fathers.

- a. Professional and large business.....110
- b. Small business..... 94
- c. Skilled labor..... 91
- d. Semi-skilled labor..... 88
- e. Unskilled labor..... 82

(According to army figures, the average I. Q. of American men falling in the foregoing classes is as follows:

- | | | |
|--------|-------|--------|
| a. 115 | c. 81 | e. 71) |
| b. 96 | d. 74 | |

4. In general Japanese children were markedly inferior to American in those tests in which language plays an important part, and equal or superior in tests not of the language type. In tests of reasoning power, apart from language, the Japanese children were equal to Americans, and in tests of rapid learning markedly superior to Americans.

5. Comparison with other immigrant groups.

(It should be noted that the following figures are based upon studies of children made in large cities. In the absence of further data upon rural children, they should be compared with the figures for Japanese in large cities.)

Immigrant group	Average I. Q.
Northern European.....	100.3
Finn.....	90.0
Slovak.....	85.6
Southern Italian.....	77.5

The average American I. Q. seems to be about 97.

6. A study was made of the relation between size of family and intelligence of children. No correlation was found. This signifies that intelligent Japanese are reproducing themselves as rapidly as the less intelligent, at present.

a. (The figures given above include results obtained from the Army Beta test. The general showing of Japanese children on this test is given separately, however.)

b. Results of the Army Beta Test.

Age	Av. score, Japanese	Av. score, American
10.....	60.2	60.5
11.....	70.0	66.0
12.....	79.5	68.3
13.....	82.0	(No. American norms)
14.....	82.0	"
15.....	84.0	"
Average score, Italian 12-year-olds.....		54.
" " Spanish 12 " "		52.7
" " Portuguese 12 " "		52.5

The Japanese made remarkable scores on this test. It has not proved to be nearly as reliable a measure of intelligence as the Binet, however, so one must be cautious as to the interpretation of results.

c. Tests of School Achievement.

Subject	Japanese Retardation in Months	Japanese Acceleration in Months
Reading, whole group.....	15	0
rural group.....	24	0
city (S. F.).....	0	1
Language, whole.....	12	0
rural.....	15	0
S. F.....	0	5
Spelling, whole.....	0	3
rural.....	0	1
S. F.....	0	8

Subject	Japanese Retardation in Months	Japanese Acceleration in Months
Arithmetic, whole....	2	0
rural....	11	0
S. F....	0	8
Information, whole...	6	0
rural....	12	0
S. F....	0	11
Total School Achievement, whole...	6	0
S. F....	0	7

There were no important differences between boys and girls in school achievement, except in information (science and history), in which the boys were superior to girls.

It is worth noting that in knowledge of American history and literature, Japanese boys and girls in San Francisco are superior to American children.

d. Teachers' Ratings of Japanese Children.

The following ratings represent the combined judgments of over 400 teachers on the abilities and character traits of Japanese children as compared with American.

School Subjects	Character Traits
Japanese children are rated as very superior in school deportment, slightly superior in school application, drawing & painting, music, penmanship, spelling, arithmetic, physical training, slightly inferior in reading & language history, geography, nature study and science	Japanese children are rated as slightly superior in the following traits, appreciation of beauty permanence of moods desire to excel freedom from vanity conscientiousness
	as approximately equal in physical energy prudence self confidence will power cheerfulness popularity sensitivity to approval sympathy generosity truthfulness mechanical ingenuity desire to know general intelligence
	as slightly inferior in originality

3. General Summary.

Language handicap is very evident in most of the test performances, and its effect upon final scores is, unfortunately very hard to estimate. It is fair to assume, however, that it probably tends to lower the I. Q. somewhat. Taking all of the results into account, the following conclusions seem fully justified:

1. The Japanese in California are as a group, somewhat inferior in intelligence to Northern Europeans, but markedly superior to Southern Europeans.
2. In application and capacity to learn, they are probably superior to any European race in America, as well as superior to native Americans.
3. In social-moral traits, they are fully equal, and in many respects probably superior to the average child of other races in California, as judged by their teachers, this being true with respect to native American children as well.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) M. L. DARSIE.

